

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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R 291632Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3295

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 11630

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, MCAP, MILI, PFOR, UK, US, NATO

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH DR. GARDINER TUCKER, NATO ASSISTANT

SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT

1. GARDINER TUCKER, IN LONDON FOR DISCUSSIONS ON NATO MATTERS WITH HMG INCLUDING ROY MASON, DROPPED IN ON 22 JULY FOR A CHAT WITH ME. DCM SPIERS AND EMBOFFS MICHAEL MACDONALD AND ED DILLERY JOINED FOR THE DISCUSSIONS.

2. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF TUCKER'S VISIT TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON THE CURRENT PLAY IN NATO ON THE RATIONALIZA-

TION/STANDARDIZATION AND "TWO-WAY STREET" MATTERS. WHILE WE COVERED A LOT OF NOW WELL TRODDEN GROUND, OUR DISCUSSION WAS MOST USEFUL IN HELPING TO SEPARATE CORN FROM CHAFF AND TO FOCUS ON FUNDAMENTALS. I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE US TO EXERCISE POSITIVE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP NOW. OTHERWISE, A REAL DANGER EXISTS THAT THE FORWARD MOMENTUM SO RECENTLY STIMULATED BY SECDEF'S DPC SPEECH, THE PRESIDENT'S BRUSSELS VISIT, AND MASON'S EUROGROUP INITIATIVES WILL BE LOST.

3. A NUMBER OF POINTS EMERGED FROM OUR DISCUSSION WORTHY IN MY VIEW OF FULLER WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION:

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(A) THE NEED TO FOCUS EARLY ON NATIONAL AND ALLIANCE RE-

QUIREMENTS, FORCE STRUCTURES, MID-TO-LONG-RANGE PLANNING WITH THE AIM OF GETTING EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF NATO NEED AIMED AT STANDARDIZED SOLUTIONS. NATURALLY, THIS REQUIRES A CAREFUL EVALUATION OF CURRENT CAPABILITIES IN EUROPE AND AMERICA TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF LIKELY PAY-OFF WHICH WOULD OPTIMIZE EXISTING STRENGTHS AND RESOURCES. THIS MAY WELL REQUIRE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM WITHIN DOD AS WELL AS NATO TO FOCUS ON THE BROAD

NSIDERATIONS INVOLVED AND TO GIVE DIRECTION TO IMPLEMENTATION.

(B) THE NEED TO ACCEPT THAT THERE WILL INEVITABLY BE A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD REQUIRING SOME "SUBSIDIZATION" FOR ACHIEVING THE BENEFITS WHICH RATIONALIZATION/STANDARDIZATION ARE AIMED TO YIELD IN COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND ENHANCED OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES/EFFECTIVENESS. TUCKER BELIEVES, AND I AM INCREASINGLY PERSUADED, THAT WE CAN EVOLVE A STRUCTURE WITHIN NATO WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR "ALLOCATION" DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NOT DO TOO MUCH VIOLENCE TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR COMPETITION. THE DEVELOPMENT OF "COMPETITIVE" AND ALTERNATIVE EUROPEAN SOURCES IS, OF COURSE, A MATTER OF LONG-TERM INVESTMENT BY THE EUROPEANS AFTER THEY AND WE HAVE DECIDED THAT A PARTICULAR DEFENSE INDUSTRY CAPABILITY SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AND SUBSTAINED. THIS WILL TEND TO PUT EMPHASIS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING A PARTICULAR CAPABILITY OR FUNCTION WITHIN THE BROADER CONTENT OF DEFENSE SPECIALIZATION AND SHOULD HELP TO MOVE THE EUROPEANS TO BECOMING MORE COMPETITIVE. WHAT IS NEEDED FOR AT LEAST THE IMMEDIATE SHORT-TERM, IT SEEMS TO ME, IS TO ACCEPT AS A "COST" A DEGREE OF "SUBOPTIMIZATION" TO PERMIT GREATER EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONCEPT OF "REASONABLY COMPETITIVE" WHICH WAS DEVELOPED FOR THE F-16 INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION PACKAGE AS A MEANS FOR OVERCOMING US-EUROPEAN DISPARITIES IS AN ATTRACTIVE ONE AND SHOULD HELP US OVER THE TRADITIONAL IMPEDIMENT OF EUROPEAN SOURCES NOT BEING COMPETITIVE;

(C) THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A BI OR MULTILATERAL PROCUREMENT FUND THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO FACILITATE CROSS-BORDER EQUIPMENT PURCHASES. USE OF SUCH A FUND WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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EASE THE POLITICAL ONUS USUALLY ATTACHED TO BUYING FROM ABROAD. ADDITIONALLY, THE FUND WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO SHOW THAT THE BUYING AND SELLING "BALANCES ITSELF OUT" THEREBY DRAMATIZING THE WASH EFFECT ON THE BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS ACCOUNT;

(D) THE NEED TO EXAMINE, FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF THE ADVANTAGES WHICH SHOULD ACCRUE TO THE US FROM MEANINGFUL PROGRESS IN NATO OF ACHIEVING GREATER RATIONALIZATION/

STANDARDIZATION, WHETHER THE MAINTENANCE OF A 100 PERCENT
US DEFENSE MOBILIZATION BASE CAPABILITY COULD BE MODIFIED
TO A STANDBY CAPABILITY IN THOSE AREAS WHERE WE HAVE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 11630

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SELECTED EUROPEAN SOURCES OF SUPPLY. IF IT IS TO BE
SUCCESSFUL POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, STANDARDIZATION
MUST BECOME A "TWO-WAY STREET" AND ACCEPTANCE OF A
GROWING US DEPENDENCE UPON EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL SOURCES
IS A CONCOMITANT. FORTUNATELY, THE EUROPEAN NATO COUNTRIES
ALREADY ACCEPT HEAVY DEPENDENCE UPON THE US AS A SOURCE
OF SUPPLY; AND

(E) THE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT CNAD IS AN INADEQUATE
FORUM OFTEN MORE THE SOURCE THAN A SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS.
WHAT IS NEEDED, ACCORDING TO TUCKER, IS A RESIDENT BODY
WITH PERSONNEL OF SUFFICIENT SENIORITY AND CLOUT THAT IT
CAN INFLUENCE THE FORCE PLANNING CYCLE OF NATIONAL DE-
FENSE MINISTRIES AND IMPOSE AGREEMENT ON MISSIONS, CON-
CEPTS, FORCE STRUCTURES AND LEVELS, AND WEAPONS, ETC. THE
EUROGROUP IS NOT SUITABLE FOR THIS TASK BUT IT HAS ESTAB-
LISHED THAT ITS MEMBERS WILL NOT DECIDE ON A MAJOR WEA-
PONS SYSTEM SELECTION WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION. THE US
MIGHT DO WELL TO UNDERTAKE A SIMILAR COMMITMENT AND WE
COULD THEN REQUEST EUROGROUP RECIPROCITY IN CONSULTING
DOD. THIS COULD BE A USEFUL MEANS FOR FORCING DIALOGUE

EARLY IN THE PLANNING CYCLE AT A HIGH INTERNATIONAL LEVEL
THE ULTIMATE AIM MUST BE TO SUBORDINATE NARROW NATIONAL
AND SERVICE INTERESTS TO THE REALLOCATION OF NATO'S CUR-
RENT LEVEL OF RESOURCES TO YIELD GREATER
EFFICIENCIES AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS WITHOUT IMPOSING THE
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NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL BUDGET INCREASES.

4. FINALLY, TUCKER SAID THAT HE IS VERY DISAPPOINTED
WITH THE GENERALLY LOW QUALITY OF NATO INTERNATIONAL
STAFF PEOPLE AND THAT THE US COULD DO CONSIDERABLY BETTER
IN THE QUALITY OF ITS NOMINEES. HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE,
THAT RECENTLY HE HAD HAD TO RECOMMEND THE TURNING DOWN
OF A US CANDIDATE FOR A SENIOR SYSTEMS ANALYSIS SLOT
BECAUSE THE US HAD PUT FORWARD A CANDIDATE WITH NO EXPERI-
ENCE/QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE JOB.

5. WE APPRECIATE THAT A NUMBER OF STEPS ARE NOW BEING
TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF ISSUES SUBSUMED
UNDER THE RUBRIC OF RATIONALIZATION/STANDARDIZA-
TION AND THAT OUR VANTAGE POINT HERE IS A LIMITED ONE.
HOWEVER, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP THE
CURRENT MOMENTUM ON THIS SUBJECT GOING AND I WANT TO BE
ABLE TO PUSH AS NEEDED THE BRITISH TO HELP THEM KEEP THE
PRESSURE ON THEIR EUROGROUP COLLEAGUES. MASON INDICATES
THAT HE WILL HAVE A FIRM POSITION ON "WHERE AND HOW" THE
EUROGROUP WISHES TO GO BY NOVEMBER.

RICHARDSON

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